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Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
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February 17, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David Sanders, Ph.D.
Director

**EXTENSION REQUEST - DECEMBER 6, 2005 BOARD AGENDA ITEM # 16:
MISSING CHILDREN**

On December 6, 2005, your Board directed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to reconvene the "Missing Children Task Force" in order to continue in the identification and refinement of practices for the prevention and recovery of runaways; and to report back on a monthly basis with status updates on the following:

- I. Existing County-wide and community-specific services and programs, including the support that the DCFS Emergency Response Command Post can provide;
- II. Improved maintenance of the DCFS Missing Children Website;
- III. Enhancement of the DCFS Child Protection Hotline to provide specialized support for runaways;
- IV. Consideration of using the Permanency Partners Program (P-3), and;
- V. Addressing the issues that have been raised by youth who have been or are in care of the Department through corrections and modifications to the Department's policy.

On January 6, 2006, DCFS submitted its first monthly report to the Board on "Missing Children." Since then, for the first time since its premature disbanding, on Wednesday, February 15, 2005, the reconvened Missing Children Task Force held its first meeting. Furthermore, we have staffed both the Youth and the Law Enforcement sub-committees. Finally, there has been a great deal of positive and critical activity throughout the Department around the runaway population. We have made significant strides with the integration of our permanency partners (P-3) staff and our runaway population; and our regional offices have implemented strategies and initiatives, which proffer updated best social practices.

As such, this is to respectfully request a two-week extension for the submission of the second monthly report on Missing Children. The additional time will allow the opportunity to provide a comprehensive report of the initial Missing Children Task Force meeting and the subsequent sub-committee meetings in order to more meaningfully reflect DCFS' renewed commitment to its runaway population.

Unless otherwise instructed, I will proceed with a new due date of Wednesday, March 1, 2006, for submission of the next monthly report on Missing Children, and continue to report on the first of every month thereafter. For any questions, please feel free to contact me or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Board Relations Manager, at (213) 351-5530.

DS:AS:sg

c: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors